

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 01095 270850Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 EUR-12 /097 W
-----049765 271206Z /11

R 261708Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6155
INFO OAU COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1095

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, SOPN, AORG, OAU, ET, IR, SD
SUBJECT: OAU PRESS RELEASE ON IRAN AND HORN OF AFRICA

REF: STATE 18396

1. IRAN AMBASSADOR SHAHROKH FIROUZ INFORMED POLCOUNS ON JANUARY 24 THAT HE WANTED THE US TO UNDERSTAND IRAN'S SIDE IN SQUABBLE WITH OAU. FIROUZ ATTRIBUTED OAU STATEMENT (REFTEL) TO OAU CHAIRMAN BONGO, WHOM HE REFERRED TO CONTEMPTUOUSLY AS A 'GIGOLO.' HE SAID THAT BONGO'S FURY SHOULD BE DIRECTED AT SIAD BARRE RATHER THAN THE SHAH BECAUSE SIAD BARRE CAME BEGGING TO IRAN - HE WAS NOT INVITED - AND FURTHERMORE IRAN WAS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES APPROACHED.
2. FIROUZ SAID THE SHAH WAS SERIOUS WHEN HE SAID HE WOULD AID SOMALIA IF IT WERE INVADED BY ETHIOPIA AND SUCH ACTION WOULD BE ON BEHALF OF THE FREE WORLD (ONE OF FIROUZ'S FAVORITE THEMES). HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO FAMILIAR ARGUMENT THAT IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 01095 270850Z

USSR USES ADEN TO BRING IN SUPPLIES FOR ETHIOPIA AND SHOULD THE COMMUNISTS BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE HORN, THEY WOULD CONTROL THE RED SEA. IRAN BY VIRTUE OF BEING LOCATED ON THE INDIAN OCEAN COULD NOT AFFORD TO LET THAT HAPPEN.

3. FIROUZ FURTHER CRITICIZED BONGO FOR HIS FICKLENESS,

POINTING OUT THAT IRAN HAD ARRANGED FOR GABON TO BECOME
A MEMBER OF OPEC WHEN HE HAD REQUESTED THEIR HELP, THE
'QUID' BEING ONLY '500 TONS OF URANIUM.'

4. ACCORDING TO FIROUZ, IN SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH
NIGERIAN OFFICIALS, THE OAU PRESS RELEASE WAS NOT
MENTIONED ONCE. HE SPECULATED THAT THEY PROBABLY
WERE NOT CONSULTED BEFORE IT WAS ISSUED AND PROBABLY
DO NOT APPROVE OF IT.

5. TURNING TO SOME GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON OAU, FIROUZ
SAID THAT THERE IS A GREAT RESERVOIR OF DISLIKE FOR
NIGERIA AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND PREDICTED THAT IT
WOULD BE MANIFESTED IN SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST LEADING
THE FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES TO OPPOSE NIGERIAN INITIATIVES
TO HAVE THE OAU CALL FOR MORE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST
SOUTH AFRICA.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR FIROUZ TENDS TO BE
OVERLY DRAMATIC IN SOME OF HIS REVELATIONS (AS IN HIS
REFERENCES TO BONGO) HE APPEARED TO BE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS
FROM TEHRAN IN REFUTING OAU PRESS RELEASE.

7. WITH REFERENCE TO INCREASING DISLIKE OF NIGERIA AMONG
AFRICAN NATIONS, BRITISH HIGH COMMION HEAD OF CHANCERY
JOHN JOHNSON MADE THE SAME OBSERVATION AFTER RECENT VISITS TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 01095 270850Z

WEST AFRICAN CAPITALS
EASUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS01095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780040-0941
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780120/aaaaaqk.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8d4309e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 18396
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3711040
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAU PRESS RELEASE ON IRAN AND HORN OF AFRICA
TAGS: PBOR, SOPN, AORG, ET, IR, SO, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8d4309e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014